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WEEKLY PEOPLE

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FROM THE ANVIL

PASSING COMMENT ON EVENTS OF THE DAY.

Working Class Advance Guard of New Civilization—Friendship of European Potentates Demonstrates Internationality of Ruling Classes—“Need of Farm Hands” for Plucking—Accidental Discovery of Katherine Elkins’ Royal Lineage.

The “disorders” in Sweden strangely supplement the “disorders” in Spain. In Spain the trouble started with anti-military revolts on the part of working people who did not fancy being sent themselves, or having their kindred sent, to butcher and be butchered by Moors with whom they had no quarrel. In Sweden the trouble started with a strike in woollen and cotton industries and has since traded to the iron and other trades. In both instances the Working Class is at the vanguard of civilization.

Such trips as the Czar is making to France, England and other countries should be encouraged. The facts adduced by Socialism, proving that “government,” where classes exist, is something separate and apart from the people, are convincing enough as far as they go, but the facts are not object lessons. In the instance of the Czar and his British and “republican” French hosts the object lesson is furnished free, gratis and for nothing, altho’ the costs are heavy upon the pockets of all the respective “governments.” What an object lesson of what class rule government really means is not presented by the Czar and his suite receiving President Fallières in the harbor of Cherbourg on their yacht, the Standart, the same being surrounded by “a ring of ironclads and destroyers” with “police swarming on shore” and building there a second line of circumvallation between the “government” and the people. Hold mass meetings to denounce such visits! Not at all! Let the mass meetings invite such object lessons.

The “nice and good” element of society will surely point to the reports from Spain, which tell of Barcelona employers agreeing “to offer a premium of a week’s wages to every person coming back to work,” as a sign of the undying charitableness of employerdom, “even under the most trying circumstances.” Others, however, notably the “vicious Socialists” and such, will insist in seeing in the offer only one more proof that employerdom can not live without the workers, and that the “charitableness” amounts but to the thirst of the vampire capitalist for the blood that it sucks up from Labor at work—very much as was the case with the Paris bourgeois, when, after their massacres of the Communards, they found the ranks of Labor so depleted that they granted a general amnesty to their victims in prison.

“Manitoba needs 13,000 harvesters”—such is the announcement from Canada. Which means that the Manitoba property-holding farmers need 13,000 men to pluck. The 13,000 victims are needed to work for starvation wages while the harvesting is done and wealth is piled up for the farmers; and when the harvesting is over they are to scatter, empty pocketed, as best they may, and quick as possible, or the farm dogs will be set at their heels.

By the merest accident, purely accidentally, Mrs. Albert Levin Richardson of Baltimore has discovered that Senator Davis’s forebears are lineal descendants “of many generations of Italian kings,” traceable “away back to A. D. 814 in the time of Charlemagne.” Incidentally and also by the merest accident Mrs. Richardson has discovered that Miss Katherine Elkins, the daughter of Senator Elkins, whose marriage to the Italian Prince of the Abruzzi was objected to by Italian royalty, is the granddaughter of the said Senator Davis. What wonderful discoveries disinterested research will sometimes lead to!

Senator Daniel of Virginia whined in the Senate that “in the formation of this bill [the tariff bill] the effective voice that Virginia used to utter on this floor has been denied her.” If the Senator simply lamented Virginia’s past glory he would be right; but the Rip Van Winkle complains as if a wrong had been done to Virginia. He does not realize that the

scepter has passed from the hands of the class, that ruled when Virginia played the tenor role in the land, into the hands of the capitalist class with Rhode Island leading through Aldrich.

A strange disease seems to seize upon everyone who touches the Democratic party. It is a curious disease which causes the Democratic statesman ever to do that which will bring about exactly the reverse of what they aim at. Bryan was a good illustration. He aimed at the workingman’s vote. If he got that, his election would be hands down. In pursuit of his aim he began to preach a theory that was bound, by mathematical precision to strip him of the Labor Vote. His theory was that if employers were well off their employees would prosper. For every ten employees of the Bryan capitalists there are five hundred of the Gold Bug capitalists. The Bryan theory had, of course, the effect, upon his labor audiences who took stock in his theory, of confirming the five hundred to their Gold Bug bosses and of driving most of the ten employees of Bryan capitalists away from him.

And now comes Gov. Johnson of Minnesota and does a similar thing. He calls upon the West “to throw off the shackles of the East”—a call that can only have for its effect to weld the sufferers of the East to their masters. Seeing that these, masters and sufferers, are by far more numerous than the available material in the West, what Gov. Johnson did was to rivet all the more firmly the “shackles of the East” upon the West.

If the figures of Judge Franklin M. Danaher, of the State Board of Law Examiners, are correct, then, not a “Yellow Peril” but a “Lawyers Peril” threatens the land. The Judge states that there are now 18,000 lawyers in this State (in the whole country there are about 115,000 of them) and that new lawyers were being admitted at the rate of 1,000 a year. From these premises the Judge’s conclusion is correct that, if the rush keeps up, it would be difficult in the future to keep the legal fraternity busy. Could the worst prospects of the “Yellow Peril” be any worse, or as bad?

Ex-chief of the Pittsburgh police O’Mara, who testified in Thaw’s interest before Judge Mills, and who said he volunteered to testify at Thaw’s trial “in the interest of truth and innocence,” and from whom the District Attorney extracted the statement that he was paid \$2,200 for his stay of eleven weeks idle stay in New York—this O’Mara Thaw’s mother referred to, immediately after when she took the witness stand, by comparing him to Milton’s angels: “They also serve who only stand and wait.” —A rather beefsteak angel that must be that can get away with \$200 a week.

Representative Norris of Nebraska is of the family of those who swallow a camel and strain at a gnat. The gentleman does not object to the country’s sporting a highly salaried Vice-President and a highly salaried Speaker; to these deadly automobiles, kept greased perpetually to run over the people. Representative Norris is deeply attached; that camel he swallows. But he gags at the gnat of furnishing the Vice-President and Speaker with a regulation automobile on the ground that he should hate “to see them become automobile speeders and place our lives in jeopardy” at whose expense?

Prof. Charles Zueblin, who fears lest the American go in too much for “exclusiveness—something to set him off from his fellows,” may rest easy. The mill-stones of capitalism are grinding us all down to fine meal, just right for excellent porridge for the masters, but no grain of which has any individuality or self left. Self-hood—upright, vigorous, self-reliant self-hood—is not the product of civilization whose masses are abject slaves.

The proposed amendment to the Federal constitution on the income tax is behaving like a corpse that the tide washes and dashes against the break waters. Georgia’s Senate refuses to consider it; Senators and Assemblymen of other States are turning their backs to it. The political breakwater is doing its work.

What on earth can be the reason of the mummery that has suddenly struck the free trade dailies on the subject of anti-militarism? They have all along been loud in their protestations against armies and navies as “engines of barbarism that interfere with the friendly relations of peoples.” Now, of a sudden, these same papers are silent as “drowned clams.” Can it be that the anti-militarist revolts of the working class of Spain have gripped Mammoth Free Trade’s throat, the darling deary?

Washington dispatches announce that as soon as Congress puts up its shutters the Democratic managers will inaugurate a campaign of education on the tariff that they believe will be productive of votes for their cause in November, 1910. Matchless, indeed, is the Democratic opportunity for a campaign of education. Their leaflets should contain their Senator Bacon’s declaration that “platforms are made over night, in a hurry”; a list

The New York Labor News Company is the literary agency of the Socialist Labor Party. It prints nothing but sound Socialist literature.

NO MISTAKE AT ALL

In its publication, the Altruist Community of St. Louis, speaks of “The Fatal Mistake of the Socialists,” which is that the Socialists insist on “waiting until a majority vote of the people should adopt co-operation,” instead of “any number of people who want it” adopting it “for themselves,” without waiting for the rest.

The Dutch physician-sociologist Van Eeden two years ago made a tour of this country in favor of co-operatives, had the same idea. “Don’t bother voting; don’t bother with an economic organization; don’t teach revolution,” was the tenor of his talk; “if you want co-operation, select your members, gather your funds, and start co-operating.”

Van Eeden admitted thousands of dollars’ loss on his schemes. No matter how carefully the members were

selected or how well gathered the funds, somehow they one and all went to smash. And yet the industrially undeveloped condition of Holland prevented Van Eeden from seeing wherein they smashed.

That wherein is the powerfully developed tool of production in the hands of the upper capitalist, against which competition is impossible. A body of men, however, “carefully selected,” unless equipped with that tool, will be forced to work as hard, and for as little financial return, as if they were outright wage slaves. In both cases it is the lack of ownership of the tool to produce with that renders them helpless. Merely combining helplessness without removing the cause of the helplessness, will not lift them from the slough of overwork and want. For that the advanced tool must be had;

and the advanced tool can only be had at such a price that those having it to expend would be in no need of co-operatives to start with. They would be capitalists already.

As above stated, Holland’s backward industrial development befogged Van Eeden’s spectacles and prevented his seeing the reason of his failure. Here in America the advanced state of capitalism should have cleared up that mist and left the Altruist Community free to use its eyes to a purpose. “The Fatal Mistake of the Socialists” is no mistake at all. Socialists have no more ambition to starve collectively than to starve individually. The only co-operative that can prevent its members from starving is the revolutionary co-operative of the whole people. For that the Socialist teaches and builds—and waits.”

POOLED PAY SYSTEM

SNEAKING COLD BLOODED WAY THE PRESSED STEEL CAR COMPANY CUT WAGES.

Details of the Fiendish Sweating System Which Broke the Camel’s Back and Drove 4,000 Steel Workers Out on Strike Against the Despots Who Had Long Been Grinding Them up for Profits.

Paul U. Kellogg, in *The Survey*, issued August 7, gives a graphic picture of the pooled pay system, through the chicanery of which the sweeping reductions in pay were made which were the last straw, and precipitated the present great McKee’s Rocks strike in the Pressed Steel Car Company’s plant.

After telling how the company, during the financial depression, cast about for some way of cutting wages and thus keeping up dividends in future, Kellogg says:

“They established a track system by which even a crude working force practically drives itself in turning out cars and a pooling system of payment which keeps the labor cost per car within a fixed charge to the company and which unloads the hazards of lost time and mistakes in construction largely upon the men.

“The strike has been over a sweeping reduction in wages (as against 1907) which the men laid up to this new system. Their grievances crystallized in the charge that they had no means of knowing what was coming to them on pay day, and that when they complained about it they were given neither rate nor redress.

“For, along with their modern operating policies, the company cling to an inflexible assertion of the most ancient property rights as a basis for running their plant. They will not tolerate petitions or meet with representatives of the men, and they refuse to arbitrate. They hold that so long as a man accepts employment in their works, he must accept the terms they grant, or quit; that so long as he can quit work, the man who thinks himself under-paid has no grievance; and that whether one man or a thousand quit work is none of the public’s business. Its part is to keep the peace. That is what the company pays taxes for.

“Passenger, street, freight cars, and hoppers are made at the McKee’s Rocks plant. The steel comes in sheets, is cut in lengths in the shearing department; heated and pressed into shape; marked and punched in the punching department; fitted together with bolts in the construction department; and put together and riveted in the erection department.

“The plant was working half force, full time at the beginning of the strike. With the resumption of active operation early in the year, the track system was installed, and the pooling system given general application. A track runs the length of the erection aisle. The trucks are placed on the track at one end, electric cranes pick up the plates, piece by piece they are put together and riveted, and a completed car rolls off the other end of the track. There are perhaps twelve positions on this track and at each position a group of men who perform one step in the process of complet-

ing a car. Every position is allowed, say, twenty minutes. If the gang at position eight is slow, or has difficulties in getting out its stint, it holds up the whole procession, and every man in the earlier positions loses time. Gang 8 always wants car B from gang 7 the minute it is through with car A; and gang 7 always wants gang 8 to be through with car B, so it can take car C from gang 6. If time wages were paid, and a car erected in a stationary position, all the delays would fall on the company, and only constant prodding from a foreman would keep the men at high speed. By means of piece wages and a track down the erection aisle, one gang drives another.

“This is the pool-piece system in a nutshell. The charges brought by the men against the way the Pressed Steel Car Company applied this system are many and definite.

“In the first place, the men charge that they have no means of checking up what is coming to them. No piece rates are posted as under the old system. They don’t know what the pool is going to get per piece for any of the work it does, nor the lump sum due it at the end of a fortnight. They claim the hourly rating is not a guaranteed minimum; that many of the men have received pay far under what they understood their rating to be and that foremen and superintendents have refused to tell others what their rating was. Further, it is alleged, that where a lump sum is paid for a series of operations done by different gangs in completing a car, no money is paid any of the gangs until the whole series of operations is completed. As some pools have included as many as 300 men, it is manifestly impossible for the men to keep track. Their pay envelopes show on the outside merely a check number and the amount inside—neither the man’s rating, nor the number of hours he has worked, nor the bonus due him under the piece pool system, nor the amount arbitrarily deducted from his earnings by the company for insurance. Rumors that foremen put dummy names on the pool sheets have been current, and the charges of graft which have been common talk for years in McKee’s Rocks, are not of the sort to give the men off hand confidence in the accounting department. So far as checking up their pay envelopes goes, they claim they could be cheated out of their eye-teeth by the company—or by any dub of a bookkeeper. And the company has taken the position that if they did not like what was in their pay envelopes they could quit.

“Sobek Pelets, check 3462, worked 3 nights in May and did not draw any pay for it. He complained to the foreman, and was sent to office. They referred him back to foreman, who wound up the affair by saying, ‘Well, what do you think—that I am going to pay you from my own pocket?’

“Andy Chomisk, check 4028, Backer-up, 14 days, 7 hours, \$20.30. Chomisk complained, his foreman promised to ‘fix it,’ but did not do anything.’

“This wage trouble was not in any one group. It ran from yard laborers up. A pressman, who had been 5 years in the works, told me he earned \$50, \$55 and \$60 a fortnight under the old system. His last few pay ranged from \$22 to \$28. How much these reductions in individual instances were due to the new pool-piece system (with which most of the men associated all of them), and how much to a sweeping cut in wages, which came at the same time as the resumption of work under the new system, an outsider cannot say. President Hoffstot freely admitted the cut in piece rates. ‘When all’s said and done, it’s supply and demand that fixes wages, the same as everything else,’ he said to me. ‘The 1907 rates have nothing whatever to do with what we pay the men to-day. We buy labor in the cheapest market.’ The market to-day in Pittsburgh after the hard times, and with men within call, is glutted.”

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A “SCHEME” TO PREVENT CHI-CAGO CAR STRIKE.

Chicago, August 9.—It is believed that possibilities in the street carmen’s grievances are brighter for a betterment, and negotiations are on between the officials of the surface traction companies and representatives of their employees for a settlement of the wage difficulty were resumed to do with what we pay the men to-day. We buy labor in the cheapest market.’ The market to-day in Pittsburgh after the hard times, and with men within call, is glutted.”

President Mitten, of the Chicago City Railway Company, is expected to make a definite compromise offer to the employees. This offer, it is said, will embody rewards for the older employees and incentives for the co-operation of younger employees, the net result being a general advance in wages under a long time contract with the union.

Simultaneously President Roach, of the Chicago Railways Company, will confer with the employees of his line, and is expected to make a similar offer. The situation to-day indicates peace.

down. It may be the fault of the men operating it, or it may be a flaw in the machine. In either case, their lost time comes out of the pool. On the track system not one gang, but all would be held up; and the pool would lose. The same if there’s a shortage of material. These are the men’s charges. Officers of the company told me that they didn’t have shortages of material, that parts of the machines could be quickly replaced, and that if there was a long tie up of a gang, it would be laid off so the lost time would not fall on the whole pool. President Hoffstot, however, when I put the case of the 50 men, 5 machines and one broken, to him, could see nothing unjust in making the 40 other men bear the lost time instead of the company. They want all the fat and none of the lean with it,” he said. Those were part of the terms under which a man was employed in the Pressed Steel Car Company. The inference here again was that if he didn’t like it, he could quit.

Besides not knowing what money was coming to them, and feeling that the company was taking some that was theirs, the men were sore at what they individually got.

Let me quote, by way of illustration, a few of a number of cases collected by Alois B. Koukol, secretary of the National Slavonic Society, who interviewed men of several nationalities:—

“Max Sharp, check 4617, Backer-up, pay June 15, 3 days, \$1.00. June 15-30, 13 days, \$24. Sharp stated that his master-riveter received only \$16 during the last named period, although he worked the same hours and his pay should have been the higher.”

“John Jakubik, check 156, Laborer in yard. Supposedly at \$1.33 per day, 14 days, \$15.”

“John Malinak, check 5089, Riveter, pay June 10, 4 days, \$3.50. Stated five other men working with him on the same job, received same pay for same period.”

“Danuk Lacik, check 4092, Riveter, pay July 10, 10 days, 2 nights, \$6.50.”

“Stefan Humeniy, check 3127, Puncher, pay June 15, 10½ days, \$14.50. This man worked in the shops for over seven years and used to make, he says, at least \$30 under the old system.”

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The recent Trades Union Congress rejected the preamble of the I. W. W. when brought forward by the “borers from within.”

The Socialist Labor Party’s annual conference was held during Easter. The May Day celebrations were held in Sydney Domain and were well attended. Fraternal greetings were sent to our comrades throughout the world.

The original preamble of the I. W. W. is rigidly adhered to by the Australian I. W. W. clubs.

much divided over capitalist issues as in any other region of the globe. No one need think this spot is a garden of Eden.

State capitalism is held up here as an installment of Socialism, but its workers are abject slaves, denied citizens' rights, and their unions have thereby degenerated into sick and coffin societies, owing to their inability to strike when occasion demands. The overseers of the state administer their various departments on strictly class lines, the state being utilized for the benefit of the employing class against the working class. That is what the Australian "Labor" Party stands for to-day, a system which will rivet the shackles of slavery more firmly than ever.

The "Labor" parties here, state and federal, have betrayed the workers right along the line. They stand solidly for the middle class and farmers' interests, their Socialism being merely state capitalism.

William Ferguson.

WOMEN BREADWINNERS.

Widows, 800,000 of them, and more, were earning their living in the United States in the year 1900. And married women, likewise, to the number of more than 700,000. And divorced women, likewise to the number of more than 60,000. One million six hundred thousand of them altogether. These widowed workingmen, these married workingwomen, together, were a full third and more of the grand total of 4,800,000 American workingwomen, 16 years of age and over, in the United States in the last census year.

How many women were there, 25 years of age and over, in the United States in 1900? There were approximately 16,700,000. And how many married women workers, widowed women workers and divorced women workers were there? There are approximately 1,500,000. Which is to say that in the total female population of the United States, married and unmarried, working and not working, rich and poor, 25 years of age and over, in the year 1900, one woman out of every eleven had passed her weddng day and nevertheless was forced to be a breadwinner.

ASSASSINATIONS AND SOCIALISM

From a Speech by August Bebel,
Delivered at Berlin.

Translated from the German by
Boris Reinstein.

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By Lewis H. Morgan

This is a great work, furnishing the ethnologic basis to the sociologic superstructure raised by Marx and Engels.

While the work needs close study most of it is easy reading. The student will read, and read, and find, each time, fresh facts not noticed before, and the opening of wider vistas not discovered at previous readings.

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LABOR CONDITIONS IN ALASKA

WORKINGMEN SUBJECTED TO INHUMAN AND BRUTAL EXPLOITATION, AND HELPLESSLY ENSLAVED.

(By Albert Robinson, Seattle.)

The Copper River district, in Southwestern Alaska is, and has been, for several years past, the scene of great activity in railroad building. Thousands of men are being employed, and a line of steel is being driven deep into the heart of the interior, skirting lofty mountains covered with eternal snow, and spanning mighty rivers. Here Nature, with lavishness discoverable nowhere else, has richly endowed the mountains with unlimited treasure in the shape of immense beds of copper and other ores. The railroad is financed by the Guggenheim-Morgan syndicate, who with a rapacity usual with these "stewards of the Lord," a la Baer, are acquiring the most promising mineral prospects, and, at the same time, rapidly pushing their railroad ahead, by means of which they will eventually freeze out or swallow the independent mine owners and effect a complete monopoly of the country, its industries and resources. Around the Pacific Coast end of the road, there has sprung up, in true mushroom style, Cordova, possessing all the institutions of a "civilized modern city": Churches, saloons, a jail and an extensive red light district, and last winter, even boasted a bread line made up with as many as six hundred men.

In Cordova the "hands" and material are landed and distributed among the two contracting outfits building the road, the Katella Co. and M. J. Heney. The labor conditions (always bad in railroad work) here are simply inhuman. The men, who have for the most part spent their last cent for the fare out, are, for about a week's run, packed like sardines in a box and fed on "mulligans." They arrive in Cordova and confront conditions which they are in no condition to rebel against, or turn back on, and as there is practically no work of any other kind, they are totally at the mercy of the contractors. Once at work, the victims have but one ambition: to earn sufficient to get back to the states, fully determined to stay there in the future.

The wages range from thirty cents per hour for common labor, to seventy cents for structural iron workers. The workday consists of eleven hours, with a night and a day shift. The "board," for which the men are charged \$1 per day, is about the rankest fraud in Alaska. Not only is the cooking in most cases bad, but the meat, known as canned "horse," is one of the "jungle" products of the Beef Trust, to eat which is dangerous to life. The vegetables, canned like the meat in most cases, and of the oldest and stalest, and of course, cheapest kind, are often served up moldy and sour. The only fresh food supplied, as a rule, is fish, which, abounding in the rivers and seas there, are extremely cheap.

M. J. "Halibut" was the nickname bestowed on M. J. Heney by his victims. Every day is Friday in his camps, fish being served three times a day with sickening monotony. At the Katella Company's bridge camp at Miles Glacier, the men were forced to drink the water from the Copper river, which is so thick with glacial mud as to resemble very strong coffee in color. The same is used for cooking purposes.

To sink a well or to buy a filter, on the part of the contractors, would cost money, and besides, it would look like pampering the slaves. The bosses and bulldozers generally have their own mess, and live on the fat of the land, while the slaves threaten to rebel and quit in a body.

To add to this disagreeableness, it happens that in some of the larger camps the men cannot all be fed at the same time, due to lack of accommodations. They are therefore divided into two or three turns, with the result that the "hands" have to turn out at four o'clock in the morning, and after breakfast, and on their own time, walk from two to six miles to work. They must put up with a cold lunch at noon, so a man, in order to get in a day's work, puts in from twelve to fifteen hours, and receives pay for eleven hours only.

The bunkhouses are like the board, only worse, if possible. They consist of tents with three tiers of double bunks on each side, and house from 150 to 250 men in each. They are provided with two small stoves, which are entirely inadequate to dry the men's clothes. The discomforts suffered may be appreciated when it is remembered that here is a climate where it rains almost every day, and where the rain is so penetrating that oilskin "slickers" afford no protection. Furthermore, the tents have no other floor but the bare ground, which, when the snow melts, is

covered with water, often as high as the bottom bunks. When the waters recede, the interior of the tent is converted into a lake of mud, compelling the occupants to wear their rubber hip boots, even to step out of their bunks.

The workers are fleeced \$1.50 month hospital tax, a piece of rascality, in return for which they are, if lucky, vouchsafed the sight of an alleged doctor and possibly a few black pills. The hospital is generally a bare tent. The commissary or store is of the usual "pluck-me" kind, famine prices being charged for everything. The work and weather necessitate the wearing of rubber hip boots, which cost \$9 a pair. They last about a month. One is often charged two prices, one price when buying and quite another on his time check, generally to the profit of the contractor.

Another club in the hands of the contractors is the fact that no one can, without a pass, travel on the railroad or river boat. As "beating it" is impossible, M. J. Heney was thereby enabled to drive back to work last fall a large number of men who quit. The weather was too cold to work outside, but he made them work another three weeks by simply holding up the ferry boat, thus preventing them from crossing the Copper river.

This spring the same Heney induced a large number of station men, on the promise of liberal contracts, to ship to Cordova, and from there he shipped them on to his headquarters camp. As most of the station work lay at, or out from Tasnuna, a point thirty miles away, a number of station men set out on foot for that place. After encountering great hardships, they found, on arrival, that there was very little food on hand. They were soon reduced to two sandwiches and one cup of "coffee" per day each. A number of them resolved to return to headquarters rather than stay where they were, and starve. Accordingly, they set out. Soon they had to abandon their blankets, the sun having softened the snow so that in some places they sunk almost over their heads in it. When night came on, they were wet through, in many cases they were, without the means to kindle a fire. Some came near freezing to death. It was a weary band that struggled into the headquarters camp with bitter curses for Heney. They demanded passes back to Cordova, but Heney must needs get his pound of flesh. He refused them passes, and compelled them to go to work for him at thirty cents an hour. A few, however, built a raft and crossed the Copper river, "mushing" it back to Cordova.

It is then no wonder that Heney goes about in fear of his life. He has been shot at several times already; he may yet be the victim of one of his victims.

Two strikes occurred while the writer was working at the bridge camp at Miles Glacier. In the first one, the caisson men, working twelve-hour shifts under an air pressure of five pounds, at fifty cents an hour, struck for seventy-five cents an hour. The Katella Company soon filled the strikers' places, but eventually compromised for sixty-two and one-half cents and eight hours. When the writer quit the camp, the caisson men were working under a pressure of seventeen pounds, at the above wages and hours. The same work in the States pays at least \$1 an hour.

The other strike, in which the writer took an active part, was that of a number of men engaged in excavating for a foundation for a concrete pier. The work was dry at first, but on getting deeper the men were compelled to work in two feet of ice cold water for eleven-hour shifts. They demanded a raise of wages from thirty-five cents to forty-five cents per hour. The men stood well together, only about five out of fifty men involved scabbing. The Katella Company bullied and threatened, but eventually offered forty cents per hour. Believing that they were going to be taken to Cordova, the writer and five other of the most active men, were taken out about twenty miles in a box car and then ditched. However, we caught the regular passenger train for Cordova. When the train crew attempted to put us off, forty of the strikers, who happened to be on the same train, loyally stood by us, and gave the train crew to understand that they wouldn't allow it. Thereupon we suffered no further interference from the "Brotherhood" men.

As this region will undoubtedly become one of the greatest mining countries in the world, (the nature of the ore deposits and the amount of capital invested permit mining to be carried on on the largest and most economical scale), it will mean that eventually scores of mines will shut down in Montana, Arizona, and other states. Then

WHY WOMEN SHOULD BE SOCIALISTS

SOCIALISM, FOR ONE THING, WOULD ABOLISH THE WARS THAT KILL AND MAIM THE IR DEAR ONES.

A writer once wrote that if "women of all nations would but use their influence in behalf of peace, wars would cease." While agreeing with this sentiment in its entirety, yet I take the liberty of altering the wording slightly, and say that "if women of all nations would adopt Socialist principles, war would cease." And why? Well, just because Socialists are avowedly opponents of wars in any shape or form.

The Socialists of all nations recognize what is an undoubted fact—viz., that almost every war that has taken place during the world's history has been fought not for the benefit of humanity generally, but owing to the fact that the rulers of two nations have quarreled and have sacrificed the blood, the manhood and the wealth of the nations to gratify their own personal vanity; or have been fought in the interests of the property holding classes and the nobles in the middle ages, and in the interests of the trading classes in the capitalistic days.

But, no matter what the cause of war, no matter in whose interests wars are waged, it is always the common people who have to bear the brunt. 'Tis they who have to find the money and the men. 'Tis they who feel the pinch of suffering and privation. 'Tis they who are compelled to back the bills. 'Tis they who have to dance while their rulers call the tune, and often have had to bear the yoke of the taskmaster and become slaves to the conquering nation.

And always the women of the common people have been the greatest sufferers. The recent Boer war, waged in the interests of the English mine owners in South Africa, is still in our memory, with its terrible death roll. The Russo-Japanese war with all its hideous barbarities is but a matter of recent history. The menace of a rumored war between the two sections of the Teutonic family—England and Germany—still looms like a blood-red cloud over the international horizon, and the women—the mothers, sisters, wives, sweethearts—are not ready to take effective action.

My heart burns within me as I recall the terrible list of widows and orphans that were compelled to seek the charity, and the doles of others during their first year of King Edward's reign. Husbands slaughtered by bayonet and bullet, sons and brothers done to death by fever and privation, breadwinners blown into eternity; young men, middle-aged men, the pride and the glory of the contesting countries, mutilated, maimed, fever-ridden or worse, returning to poverty, misery and privation. Think of the mothers who saw their loved ones go forth in health and manly strength. Think of the Boer women who sent their sons and husbands out to do the bidding of their

thousands of sturdy miner members of the W. F. of M. will flock to this region, and the struggle for the eight-hour day, already started by them in Alaska, will receive a fresh impetus. Arrayed against them will be the untold millions of the Guggenheims and the Morgans, with every power of the capitalist state behind them. Will the tragic scenes of the struggle for the eight-hour day in Colorado be re-enacted in Alaska, or will the sailors, the railroad men, the longshoremen and miners listen to the teachings of the Socialist Labor Party, and organize industrially, and by so doing, not only prevent the capitalist outrages, but eventually abolish capitalism itself?

What makes it possible for the Heneys and the Guggenheims, Morgans and the other parasites to prey on labor, to coin its very life blood into profit? Nothing but the divided and disorganized state of the working class. The remedy, that preached by the Socialist Labor Party. The workers have got to realize that to all intents and purposes there are but two nationalities, two classes, in the world, the Capitalist Class and the Working Class. Labor must organize industrially and politically and abolish the present system and erect on its ruins the Industrial Republic. This is the one cause and the one hope of, not only the workers in Alaska, but of the world!

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"WELFARE WORK

Trolley and Railroad Men Receive "No Benefit from Scheme."

The N. Y. morning papers of July 31 contained articles which stated that the Interborough and elevated railroad slaves of this city were to be transformed into clubhouse members by the magic operation of the "welfare" system!

Welfare that we railroad workers receive is the kind that proves dangerous and unhealthful. It is that which the devil would give unto his victims.

I have wage slaves as conductor and motorman during the last ten years, on railroads in the principal centers of the United States, on roads that "dished" out the "welfare" of the Harrimans, Huntington, Vanderbilts, Goulds, Rockefellers, Belmonts, and Whitneys, and I know what these "welfare" schemes are. The other day an Interborough guard told me, and his appearance looked it, that he is kept busy trying to cough up the pieces of steel which fly around through the dirty subway hole and lodge in his throat and lungs. Will the clubhouse get that "welfare" out of his lungs?

The clubhouse affair reminds me of the time when conducting on the Philadelphia Rapid Transit. A book agent approached us uniformed slaves, asking our patronage. We replied to him in chorus that when we finished work it's sleep and rest for us instead of reading.

This clubhouse scheme is nothing new in this city, or in Philadelphia, or Los Angeles. The Metropolitan Street Railway had their ex-president, Vreeland, cajole the men with a statement that "they would spend a million dollars to break up any form of union that the men would try to organize as the company is looking after the welfare of its men by having pool tables, drum corps, checkers, playing cards, and Vreeland lectures!"

In the latest headquarters of the Third avenue and Union Railroad Company, on the corner of 130th street and Third avenue, we find pool tables surrounded by dirty plaster walls, some tables with checkers, and a library room with a sickly bunch of books. There are shower baths here, but the rooms and conveniences around are so poor that all are generally deserted. The men are too tired out from overwork and from having audiences with the manager over false reports and "complaints" from "society" passengers. These unfortunate railroaders drag themselves home late at night and back to a grind at early morn, while the idle owners have automobiles to convey their lordship home in time for "functions."

Great are the "welfare" conditions on the Union Railroad Company's line. The "welfare" starts at the West Farms headquarters where the hiring and firing departments are located, a sort of physical department, while officialdom is located at 130th street and Third avenue. At West Farms' shed, 175th street and Boston Road, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, a line of employees can be seen awaiting the chance to be appointed. When your turn does come to appear before the superintendent, a string of questions is thrown at you the purpose of which is to scare the applicants and detect former employees. After breaking in eight days, you must purchase a uniform and cap, badge, punch and rule book, all of which cost \$16.25. Then you enter the sick association and pay for a doctor's examination. Association dues are fifty cents per month, and taken from your salary.

While "breaking in" not a cent salary is given, and if sick during work as a regular, it is a mighty hard job to obtain a cent benefit from the association that your dues go to.

The manslaughter department of this

company is situated in Mt. Vernon, the city of bridges, live electric wires, crooked telegraph poles, and trouble for the conductors and motormen generally. On the fences alongside the tracks, funeral looking black signs are hung reading: "Live Wires, Danger, Keep Off."

Very often passengers are hurt and conductors crushed, while collecting fares on the running board of the car which passes within a few inches of the telephone and electric poles. Some weeks ago one conductor's back was crushed so that his nose bled. Was this his "welfare"?

From eighteen to twenty-six hours continuous stretch of work, with twenty minutes to stuff some food down is the task of some. Is this welfare?

Are these statements true? Why, just ask the railroaders and they will verify them.

Toughs getting on the car and punching the conductor is some more "welfare!" Fights over the right to offer transfers which the company decides not to give results in the conductor's quarreling with passengers, while the lordly stockholders are enjoying the sea breezes. This is welfare, but for whom?

The only welfare that will benefit the workers will come by the aid of sufficient education conveyed to the working class which will tend to start them to operating the railroads and other industries for their own benefit instead of, as now, for a collection of parasites. Railroad men, read the literature that tells of your interest. Get acquainted with the educational work of the Socialist Labor Party, and purchase its official newspapers, the Daily and Weekly People.

Cond. and Motorman.

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DOCUMENTS FOR HISTORY

The below are two articles taken from vo, virtually three, Socialist party papers—the first, from the Chicago "Daily Socialist" of the 4th of this month, the second from the Los Angeles, Calif., "Common Sense" of the 24th of last month, reproducing with approbation an article that appeared in the Helena, Mont., "Montana News":

I.
[From Chicago "Daily Socialist," Aug. 4, 1909.]

The committee (N. E. C. S. P.) ded to send the following letter to International Socialist Bureau:

"The National committee of our party has recently elected Comrade Victor L. Berger as its additional representative in your bureau, and we respectfully request that he be seated as the second member for the United States, instead of the representative of the Socialist Labor Party.

"In thus claiming both seats in the International Socialist bureau for the Socialist party of the United States, we do not ask any special privileges.

"The rule giving to each country two representatives in the bureau was established in order to do justice to the movement in such countries in which it is divided into two principal wings. It was eminently fair to give separate representation to each of the two main Socialist parties in France before they united, and it is just as proper to give separate representation to-day to each of the two principal divisions of the Socialist movement in Russia and to the Socialist and the trade union movement respectively of Great Britain.

"When a division first occurred in the Socialist movement of the United States same procedure was adopted, and a good deal of justice. At the time

he Paris congress of 1900 the Socialist party and the Socialist Labor Party were factors of more or less equal importance in the United States. But since that time the situation has changed very radically. The vast majority of the former members and voters of the Socialist Labor party have transferred their allegiance and support to the Socialist party. The latter to-day represents the entire organized Socialist movement in the United States, while the Socialist Labor Party has been reduced to a mere nominal existence, and has neither members nor support, nor influence in the labor movement of this country.

"The Socialist party has an enrolled membership of 44,791; the Socialist Labor Party hardly musters more than 1,000. In the recent national elections the Socialist party polled a vote of 424,483, while the vote of the Socialist Labor Party was less than 14,000. In other words, if we accept the enrolled membership and electoral vote as a test of strength, and we know of no other test, then the Socialist party represents about 97 per cent of the Socialist movement in the United States, while the Socialist Labor Party, at a generous estimate, constitutes about 3 per cent of it.

"The Socialist Labor Party does not in any sense represent a division, or wing, of the Socialist movement of the United States, and there is no more logic or justice in admitting it to the bureau on an equal footing with the Socialist party than there would be in dividing the two seats of Germany between the Social Democratic party of that country and some Socialist study circle in Berlin. We recognize, of course, that the Socialist Labor Party, as a Socialist organization, is entitled to representation at the International Congress, where it has a vote proportionate to its strength and importance; but addition to the bureau of an organization small and insignificant as the Socialist Labor Party is an anomaly which is both ridiculous and embarrassing for the Socialist movement of the United States.

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II.

[From Los Angeles, Calif., "Common Sense," July 24, 1909.]

POPULARITY AND PARTY TACTICS.

The following article from the "Montana News" edited by Comrade Ida Crouch Hazlett, constitutes good reading perhaps also for a great many of the local comrades:

The curse of the American Socialist movement is its superficiality—individuals flocking to the party and loudly proclaiming themselves Socialists, even taking responsible positions, who have not the slightest conception of the science and principles upon which the movement is based, who look upon it simply as a new political diversion and have no serious interest in its revolutionary character. There are hundreds of locals without an individual in them who is posted on the tactics of the party. So chaotic is the condition that well-grounded and experienced Socialists are often discouraged as to the outcome of American Socialism.

This condition is due largely to American characteristics. The European Socialists say we are "new." We have been "new" for thirty years. We have a vote but our organizations lack knowledge of class-conscious methods of procedure. The question is—How shall this knowledge of a class program be obtained?

These loose ideas of Socialism are proving a prolific source of corruption to the Socialist press. Since the party has arrived at no solid principles for the conduct of a party press, and since our vote is simply scattering and we have no parliamentary question to demand lines of action on the part of the press, the temptation is tremendous on the part of Socialist papers to cater to whatever seems to be "popular" enough to catch the largest number of readers. This accounts for the piles of trash with which many of our largest papers litter their columns; stuff that cannot be educational, that is teaching a spurious philosophy, and lending no strength to class organization.

Even our speakers are perverted by the financial need of being "popular." They are afraid to teach clear party tactics. They are afraid to teach our scientific position as it is. They are all the time delivering themselves of some weak sort of diluted milk for babes.

When will our locals be strong, when will they be efficient, when will they be courageous, when will they draw their class lines clearly and stand squarely upon them?

Not until the Socialists cease being cursed by the fetish of popularity. A weak, sentimental brand of Socialism is "popular" nowadays. Sentimental women run after it and mix it up with their Sunday school classes. Professionals who wish to be odd find that it brings them into prominence. Indeed the workingman feels quite shamefaced and out of place in this grand company, and becomes conspicuous by his absence.

Those who know what Socialism really is should insist upon its tactics being taught and adhered to even if they stand alone and there are only enough in their local to hold the charter. We do not expect popularity. We are arrayed against all existing institutions and administrations. We are the poor, the weak and the blind, the staggering workingman, struggling up to overthrow the might of the ages. We expect every sort of misrepresentation and abuse; and when it comes in the party itself we must be prepared to meet it there. We must teach the international tactics of our movement and insist upon them even though we stand alone. We must persevere.

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UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

FLASHES OF EVENTS ENACTING THEMSELVES IN AUSTRALIA.

Sydney, N. S. W., Australia, June 30.

The Australian wageworker, like his prototype in other capitalist countries, resents the Socialists' statement that he is a wage-slave, notwithstanding the fact that the Union Jack of old England floats proudly in the breeze. But the following excerpts from the Sydney press, show that laws are still in operation in Australia, which bind him to his master like the chattel slave of American history. Should he run away, the bloodhounds of the law are placed upon his trail, and he is brought to "justice."

The news items here given throw a light upon the situation and the treatment meted out to labor.

I. DISSATISFIED IMMIGRANTS FINED FOR LEAVING WORK.

Moree, N. S. W., Jan. 29.—At the police court yesterday, three Bulgarians, named Kohler, Borkham and Billeo, were proceeded against by Samuel Lewis Cohen, grazier of Alice Downs, on a charge of absenting themselves from his employment. The men were engaged by Cohen through the State Labor Bureau in Sydney, and were under contract to him for nine months at £1 (\$5.00) per week and rations. On January 2 they cleared out without notice, and went to work for a neighbor. Their solicitor set up the defense that they were dissatisfied with the tucker supplied to them, but Cohen and his overseer gave evidence that the men had everything they asked for, and that the food was the same as supplied to the overseer and his family. Only one man could make himself understood in English, and that with great difficulty.

A fine of 25c each was inflicted, together with costs in each case, amounting to \$18.00.

These men were not fined because they were Bulgarians, but because they were workingmen, it being unlawful for a worker to break his "contract." Considering that only one could speak English, and that with great difficulty, it wasn't a strain on the overseers to give them "all they asked for." Besides, being ignorant of the English language, they certainly could not read the "contract."

II. Miners Before the Court.

Charlestown, N. S. W., Jan. 19.—At the police court to-day thirteen mine employees, seven, machinists and six assistants, of the Burwood B. pit, pleaded guilty to an information lodged by the mine manager, charging them with absenting themselves from their hired service without notice, on or about December 30 last. The magistrate imposed a fine in each case of \$2.50, with \$4.00 costs, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment. As the mine was not working well he allowed the defendants one month in which to pay the fine.

Not until the Socialists cease being cursed by the fetish of popularity. A weak, sentimental brand of Socialism is "popular" nowadays. Sentimental women run after it and mix it up with their Sunday school classes. Professionals who wish to be odd find that it brings them into prominence. Indeed the workingman feels quite shamefaced and out of place in this grand company, and becomes conspicuous by his absence.

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III. Would Not Work Overtime.

Helensburgh, N. S. W., May 18.—At the police court to-day, J. Straudon, a wheeler at the Metropolitan colliery, was proceeded against by the manager for refusing to work overtime when requested by one of the officials of the colliery. On the advice of the union officials defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined sixty cents and costs of prosecution. Three other charges of a similar nature were withdrawn.

Who has not heard in America of "Labor" Australia and its "eight-hour day" (which is not universal by any means). The above prosecution throws light on the "short" working day enjoyed by union labor in Australia.

IV.
Kurri Kurri, N. S. W., May 19.—Thirty-four whalers at Pelaw main colliery were fined \$10 and \$2.75 costs each, for leaving their work on May 3 without cause. (They were on strike for two days.)

These instances show that the "freedom" of the Australian worker is of a microscopic quantity.

There is a possibility that the employees of the Gas Company will go on

but the bare necessities, is all that the most humane judge in Australia could offer to the workers.

A Royal Commission has been investigating the postoffice system. When a witness in Sydney, Miss McLeod, said that one of the operators had answered 749 calls in an hour, one of the officials pooh-poohed the idea of such a number of calls being answered. On the girl being interviewed by a reporter about the officials' incredulity, she promptly retorted that "the operators knew more about the details than the officials." This was claimed to be a world's record, and operators in Melbourne, Victoria swelled up with pride when one of their number made 750 calls, beating the Sydney record. State pride, like race pride, results to the benefit of the capitalist class, who take care that a record once accomplished can be again accomplished. "Records" must become the normal condition in the interests of "business."

The United Furniture Trades Society applied for a wages board to cover the various crafts in furniture production. The secretary, named Cutler, said the union had 700 members. One hundred and fifty were not in the union.

There are also about 550 Chinese in the furniture trade. Cutler strongly opposed a Chinaman being seated on the board, though he strongly desired that the award should be enforced on the Chinamen. This person also desired laws giving more effective control of Chinese workshops. When an inspector visited one of their workshops when they were working overtime, he was always assured that there were no employees; that they were cooperative workers and part owners, or some such excuse as that.

About sixteen months ago the Chinese furniture workers approached the "white men's union" and asked to be admitted to membership. But the "pure bred Anglo-Saxon white Australians" refused that opportunity to take control over Chinese workshops. Since then the Chinamen organized a union of Chinese furniture workers, and registered under the Industrial Disputes Act, thus lining up with the "forward" paleface.

It is accepted as an economic fact by the Socialist that the fundamental base of wages is the amount necessary to keep a worker with the average family. Justice Higgins, in his decision, re the Broken Hill award, declared that "The living wage should be such as will support the workman and the workman's wife and family in frugal comfort." Justice A'Beckett, of Victoria, when giving an award in the fellmongering trade (wool washing and scouring), said that Justice Higgins' decision did not bind him. He interpreted the "living wage clause" in the act to mean a "personal wage," and held that the lowest wage to be fixed under the Act was not a wage which would support a man and his wife and family in frugal comfort. He therefore fixed the wage at \$9.00 per week, which, he said, "would support a single man." If his decision were wrong, Parliament alone could correct the mistake.

Who has not heard the slander hurled at the Socialist, that Socialism would destroy the home. That spectre, held up to the mental vision of the workers, as the appalling results of Socialism, is a cinematograph of capitalist society. There will be no working class homes in Australia soon if Beckett's decision is to be enacted here. On Beckett's award, the ultra-capitalist paper in Sydney, the Telegraph, says:

"The attempt to regulate wages and conditions of labor, according to law, must be recognized as one of the most intelligent and creditable efforts ever made by society to safeguard itself from loss and strife. There is no partiality in decreeing that a worker shall have a living wage, which is merely a matter of rigid justice, and he struck at the very heart of the principle, when he interpreted a 'living wage' to mean 'wage of a single man.' This decision must not be allowed to stand, for a married man with a 'personal wage' could not support his wife and family, and this would be bad for him and them and for the state also, while a single man would be prevented from marrying. This decision would encourage bachelorhood, and in the case of the married it would put a premium on the empty cradle."

The "Telegraph" sheds the tears of the crocodile. What pains the "Telegraph" is the fact that there is a possibility of the supply of labor power being restricted. As capitalist ownership desires a reserve of labor power to call upon, the decision of Judge Beckett is against the interests of the far-seeing watchdogs of capitalism.

One thing has been made plain enough; all that the capitalist system holds in store for the workers is merely food, clothing and shelter in "frugal comfort." No luxuries, nothing

RUSKIN COLLEGE

A SUPPOSEDLY WORKING CLASS INSTITUTION USED AGAINST THE WORKERS.

Ruskin College at Oxford, England, an institution financed in part by the trades unions to enable working class students to get a college education, has come to grief, as was perhaps to be expected should Ruskin really teach and interpret from a standpoint not strictly capitalist.

Dennis Hird, the principal, it seems undertook to teach along the lines of the supposed purpose of the College. He was forced to resign. The students went on strike, and now the English and Welsh unions are considering the establishment of a new educational structure to be controlled by themselves.

Much of the financial support of Ruskin College came from members of the Liberal and Tory parties, such as Balfour, Roseberry, Guinness, Strachey and others. This fact naturally led the governing body of the institution to see to it that nothing was said that would offend the "benefactors."

The Labor men on the Executive Board of the College: Bell, Bowerman, Shackleton, and Taylor showed little or no independence; it was left for the students to do that. Referring to an education that "helps to break down the barriers of class ignorance and class prejudice," as the capitalist exponents of Ruskin College put it, the "Plebs," organ of the students, says:

"No working class student can undergo a University education and come through it untainted. Before he enters he may swear by hell, book, and candlestick, to preserve his allegiance to the cause of those whom he represents, but once inside the cultured atmosphere, he will quickly find himself compelled to adapt himself to the prevailing temperature. We know that this is the actual experience of certain students who have become members of the University. So democratic have they been, that they at first refused to wear their gowns, but they very soon found out how hard it was to kick against the pricks" of custom and tradition. We know of one individual in particular, whose revolutionary ardor led him to say some hard things about capitalist governments, who even went so far as pronouncing the

Premier Wade's health. Wade is the man who sent the armed police to Broken Hill during the strike.

Last week a notorious ex-lawyer, named Meagher, was initiated into the "Labor" Party. W. M. Hughes, who acted as political sponsor, welcomed him thusly: "I gladly welcome W. Meagher into the movement, for to quote the Scriptures, 'There is more joy in Heaven over one sinner that repented than over ninety-nine just men.' The platform is so broad that there is room for every man, woman and child. The Labor Party wants every one to come into the movement. The movement owes its power to the discipline in its ranks, and a man of the ability of W. Meagher would be a decided acquisition to it."

Such a platform denies the class struggle. Such a platform is the program of freaks and fakirs, and such a labor party is an outrage on the working class, when it welcomes as an acquisition an ex-lawyer of notorious fame, struck off the roll for conspiring with a client, who was charged and found guilty on a re-trial, of attempting to poison his wife.

Such are the passing scenes in capitalist Australia.

R. Mackenzie.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1909.

Give me a taste of life!
Not a tang of a seasoned wine;
Not the drug of an unearned bread;
Not the grape of an untasted vine.
The life that is really life;
That comes from no fount afar,
But springs from the toil and strife
In the world of things as they are.

—CLEAVES.

DID THE S. L. P. MIGRATE TO OKLAHOMA?

Elsewhere in this issue will be found two interesting "documents for history." They bear that caption. The two documents, both furnished almost simultaneously by the Socialist party, seem made to order, to the order of the Socialist Labor Party. So exquisitely do they light each other, so perfect is the picture they jointly throw upon the canvas that comment is unnecessary, and he who can fail to appreciate the picture must be devoid of the sense of humor.

For all that comment is unnecessary, and none will be made, the first of the two documents contains a passage that makes a startling political suggestion. The passage runs thus: "The vast majority of the former members and voters of the Socialist Labor Party have transferred their allegiance and support to the Socialist party." The political suggestion that this passage throws out is: "Did the S. L. P. migrate to Oklahoma?"

In 1904, the S. L. P. polled 34,172 votes; in 1908 it polled 14,237—a loss of 19,935 votes.

The S. P. in the same years polled, in 1904, a total of 408,204 votes; in 1908 its vote, beginning with New York, Chicago and St. Louis, etc., dropped in almost all the industrial centers of the land—the only places where the S. L. P. has any organization, or support. In Chicago the S. P. drop was, from 47,743 votes in 1904, to 18,042 in 1908; in St. Louis the drop was, from 5,168 in 1904, to 2,986 this year; while in New York the S. P. vote fell off over 1,300. The only place where the S. P. made any "startling gains" was in the non-industrial and new State of Oklahoma. Hitherto everybody has been looking upon the Oklahoma "gains" in the light that startling flashes-in-the-pain are looked at. This seems to be a mistaken view. The Oklahoma "gains" seem to be solid—no less solid than S. L. P. support and membership. The gains must have come, according to the passage quoted above, from "the majority of the former members and voters of the Socialist Labor Party." There is no other conclusion to be arrived at.

Subtracting the 17,336 S. P. gains in Oklahoma, from the total S. P. poll in 1908, we have 401,171 votes left, or a total drop, mainly in the industrial centers, of 7,033 votes since 1904. The loss was made up by the 17,336 gains in Oklahoma. The figures fit almost miraculously. Why, those 17,336 votes gained in Oklahoma, are not a flash-in-the-pain vote at all—those 17,336 votes gained are exactly that "vast majority of the former members and voters of the Socialist Labor Party" which, according to the quoted passage, "transferred their allegiance and support to the Socialist party"—those 17,336 votes are (now we know it, at last!) the vast majority of the 19,935 votes that the S. L. P. lost.

Now, ye 17,336 "members and voters" of the S. L. P., who just saved the face of the S. P. by helping it to conceal the fact of its decline since 1904 in the industrial North, and who thought you lived in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, in short, in the industrial centers of the land—ye were off! Ye migrated to Oklahoma.

N. B.—What on earth became of the other 2,500? Did they lose their way en route to Oklahoma?

Watch the label on your paper. It will tell you when your subscription expires. First number indicates the month, second, the day, third, the year.

THE TARIFF BILL SIGNED.

Notwithstanding the question of taxation—a question involved in tariffs—is not a question that concerns the workers, seeing that the graft practiced upon them is a graft that is consummated in the shops, this notwithstanding, the tariff bill, which this extra session of Congress was convened to pass, has been rich in opportunities to expose that peculiar immorality that Lassalle so well said typifies every reactionary class.

The opportunities started with the opening of the debates in the House; they continued to spring up when the bill reached the Senate; and they cropped up at the moment when the last finishing touch was put upon it by the signature of the President.

The bill contains thousands of items. The theory upon which the bill is built is that of protecting the domestic manufacturer by insuring to him "a reasonable profit." As a matter of course perfection can not be expected in such a structure. Nothing human is perfect, let alone so complicated a thing as a bill that deals with a thousand conflicting interests. But the bill suffers from worse than inevitable imperfection. In a number of schedules, the hide and the textile ones, as instances, the bill raises the duties enormously. Already these concerns are deriving huge profits. Their dividends are monstrous, and the salaries that they pay their pet directors, in order to make the dividend look less startling, are princely. It is no "imperfection," it is crime in the shape of fraud that the schedules on most of the items are guilty of. And these frauds typify the bill. This notwithstanding, the President of the United States, in attaching his signature to the bill and thereby vitalizing it into law, says in its justification: "The bill is not a perfect tariff bill, or a complete compliance with the promises made," but that it could not be otherwise "in respect to a subject matter involving many schedules and thousands of articles."

This is a familiar tune on capitalist lips. The present social system "is not a perfect" thing, say they (we should stutter!), "but," they ever add, "in so complicated a thing as a social system, involving so many thousands of considerations, perfection is unattainable." And thus, under the pretext that perfection is unattainable, they cover, they nourish, they incite and they profit by crime rampant.

So does the capitalist act in the shop; so does he act in society; so does he act in private life;—and so does his chief political exponent deport himself in the White House.

GOMPERS IN PARIS.

European exchanges are bringing in copious reports of Gompers' meetings in Europe. They are all interesting. Hard to make a selection. If, then, not the most interesting, surely as interesting as any is the report of Gompers' utterances at the Egalitaire Hall in Paris. On that occasion Gompers was grilled, mercilessly grilled. Being told from the audience that the object of Unionism should be to abolish wage slavery his retort, in angry notes, was:

"What is the need of your saying so? I am not yet sure that I stand for the abolition of wage slavery. I fight the excesses of capitalism. Should I destroy it? I can't tell! And what is the use in knowing that? Organize yourselves strongly, and never let your enemy know all that you mean to do!"

The grilling that could extract such a retort was, indeed, grilling to a purpose. Here we have Gompers—the real Gompers—without a figleaf to cover his mentality.

According to the exposed mentality of this "President and Editor" the gentleman may be seen in his night shirt, pacing his bedroom, stopping ever and anon to strike, or practice, a Hamlet in perturbation posture, and soliloquize with himself, as follows:

"Sammy, dear, what does this Labor Movement drive at? Some people say it is meant to abolish wage slavery, and they can hardly be said to overdraw the picture of the horrors of capitalism. . . . Don't I know them? . . . Is it for naught I have quit making cigars on the bench, and now only smoke them? No, indeed; not by the navel of Jehovah! Capitalism and its wage slavery are horrible. Abolish them? . . . yes . . . [scratching his back] if I could . . . conveniently. . . . Ay! there's the rub! . . . Conveniently. . . . But can the thing be done? I was told by Professor Green Goods that the thing was utterly impossible. . . . the Professor wrote a book . . . he ought to know. Is the Professor right? . . . Is he wrong? . . . If he should be right, what's the sense of my running my precious head against a stone-wall of impossibility? . . . If he should be wrong? . . . then . . . why, then . . . [scratches his left leg right under the knee] . . . then . . . No! It will never do to take either chance. What to do? . . . By the nose of Habakkuk, I got it! Strategy . . . Diplomacy. . . . I shall fight the ex-

cesses of capital. . . . That will keep both ends of the line my friends. . . . If capitalism can't be abolished, my capitalist winners and diners at the Civic Federation banquets will not dine me and wine me any the less. . . . don't they also object to excesses? What harm can come to capitalism from pruning it of excesses? . . . If, on the other hand, capitalism can be abolished, why, then, the workers will look upon me as their paladin . . . but, hold, Sam . . . What about those rapping Socialists? Will paladining stop their mouths? . . . No! . . . You're stuck, Samuel! No! you ain't! You can get out of the fix. . . . How? . . . By telling them it is bad strategy to let the enemy know all that you mean to do. . . . See! . . . Wink your left eye. . . . Wink your right eye at them. . . . Let them think that Samuel G. is devilishly sly. . . . But suppose those impracticals come up to you with Marx, and open that book at a certain place, and hold it under your nose, and yell into your ears the passage: 'You can't revolutionize society behind its back,' and back up the passage with historic events to prove that people who don't know what they are organized for only scatter at the critical moment. . . . suppose those incorrigible Socialists do that. . . . some may go so far as to call you an ass. . . . [scratches both his shins] . . . what then? . . . What then? . . . Then I'll call them impossibilists! . . . Sammy, learn your lesson—you're not for capitalism, you're not against it. . . . you're for Samuel Gompers. . . . this thing will last your time anyhow—after you, the deluge!"

And putting himself upon the back S. G. strikes the posture of a Bowery tragedian impersonating Napoleon at Austerlitz.

AN OPEN LETTER.

To Luther S. Bedford, New York.

Sir:—The below letter was received in this office:

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I happened to attend a large open air meeting last Friday evening, July 30, which was being held by Luther S. Bedford at Twenty-fourth street and Madison avenue. Bedford was the speaker; his subject was the "Travis-Robinson Subway Steal." The most of his talk, however, was devoted to explaining how he had unjustly and unlawfully been ejected from a mass meeting in Cooper Union, where resolutions were to be passed helping through the Travis-Robinson Subway bill. During the course of his remarks, Bedford showed that a \$200,000,000 subway scheme was slated to go through City Hall which would benefit the Traction Trust at the expense of the city. He then made the sweeping charge that "all of the newspapers in the city, without a single exception, were in on the deal." At the close of his remarks, and in a general arraignment of everything in sight, he flamboyantly called out, "Why don't the Socialists take up this steal and expose it?" The implication was that the Socialists were being hushed up by the Traction Trust.

We do not wish to think that you uttered the falsehood deliberately. Quite possibly, the persecution you have been subjected to by the traction thieves, coupled with your experience with the press generally, has so embittered you that you have become liable to rash outbursts of anger. However this may be, the fact is that you are guilty of a slander against this paper.

We might limit ourselves to the demand that you produce your proofs. In view of the above, however, we shall go the full length of the charity due to one who, as far as the traction steal is concerned, has, however visionarily, meant well by the community. Instead of calling upon you to furnish your proofs, or stand convicted as a deliberate calumniator, we hereby place at your disposal the files of The People. At any time during this month, at your own convenience, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 5 p. m., you will be allowed access in this office to the files of The People, in the company of our mutual friend Joseph F. Darling and of such other person of your own confidence whom you may elect.

We trust you will be honorable enough to avail yourself of the offer without delay. The very cause, however visionary a cause it may be, that you have at heart demands that you cleanse yourself of the stigma of slander, or of being irresponsible for your utterances. The Daily People published a letter by Bernard McKernan, a member of Bedford's group of Minute Men, a letter which the "Call" had refused publication. I defied Bedford to contradict this.

Then, confining myself to why the Socialist Labor Party did not take up the fight against the Travis-Robinson bill, I stated that that bill was not a matter which affected the interests of the working class. I explained that if the "city were plundered" of \$200,000,000, the taxpayers would have to put up for it. The robbery which the workingmen are subjected to takes place in the industrial establishments. I elaborated upon these points, stating that though the "steal" were stopped, the wage earner would still be a dependent; that the question of graft or no graft in the municipality did not enter into consideration when an employer hired a worker; and that unemployment, exploitation, uncertainty and want would still remain an affliction of the working class. The S. L. P. position on the tax question was then explained and Bedford and his followers were told that the working class does not pay the taxes. Because of these facts, and because, to take up specifically

the fight against the Travis-Robinson bill would only divert attention from the real issue, the Socialist Labor Party, I stated, refused to go into any such fight against the "steal," while ever ready to expose it as an instance of the inherent criminality of capitalism.

When Bedford took the stand to reply to me, he who had admonished me to "stick to the question," wandered clean away from the question, and dodged every one of my statements. He made no attempt to answer anything I had said. On the matter of the Daily People publishing Mr. Darling's and other such letters, he was silent. On the matter of the wage earner's exploitation in the shop, he was quiet. The taxation argument, he did not touch. But he told funny stories, and said I had advocated dreams; that I pictured a lovely state about 4,000 years away, etc., etc., though I never once made the slightest reference to the Socialist Republic. And as for sticking to the question, which he had admonished me to do, Bedford, so far from attempting to answer me on the Daily People attitude in the Travis-Robinson matter, ran away back to 1905, four years ago, and promised a "terrible arraignment of the Daily People." Bedford claimed, as near as I could follow him, that in March, 1905, was on the track of the Traction Trust, and that the Daily People in its "The Circus" articles had been giving space to some reports against the company. Suddenly this was stopped, and stopped at about the time that a mass meeting, organized by the Traction Trust, was held in Murray Hill Lyceum at which C. F. U. delegates graced the platform. The insinuation was that Traction cash had silenced the paper.

I obtained the platform a second time, and pointed out how Bedford had run away from the question of the evening; that he was 4,000 miles or years away and not I; that I had said nothing about the Socialist future, and that touching four years ago, Bedford's complaint was of the same nature as his complaint in the Travis-Robinson case, he wanted the Daily People to take up a fight which it plainly states it will not take up because of no concern to the wage workers. The general applause which was given our side of the case showed that the crowd had caught on to Bedford.

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New York, August 2.

The statement you made, directly and by implication, that the Daily People is, or has ever been silenced by the traction steel.

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possibly, the persecution you have been subjected to by the traction thieves, coupled with your experience with the press generally, has so embittered you that you have become liable to rash outbursts of anger. However this may be, the fact is that you are guilty of a slander against this paper.

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CORRESPONDENCE

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name will attach such name to their communications, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

URGENT WORD FROM E. B. FORD.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I was re-arrested this morning on the same charge for which I have just served sixty days in the Rice county jail. I can't tell yet what is going to happen.

The aim of the gang is to stop the publication of the Referendum. Will the comrades help keep it up this time of trial?

E. B. Ford,
Editor Referendum.
Faribault, Minn., July 20.

PIERSON KEEPS UP RESULTS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—For the week ending July 31, I secured two subs for the "Volkspfund and Arbeiterzeitung," and eighteen for the Weekly People. At a meeting in Marion, Ind., I sold eight pamphlets and distributed sample copies of the Weekly People.

On the following evening we met in Pfefferle's home for the purpose of reorganizing Section Marion. All present, except one, made application for membership. Three others promised to join later on. So that a Section is practically assured at Marion. Joe Dillon was one of those who re-joined the party, and as he has gotten into harness again, good reports may be heard from that quarter.

Ten of the eighteen subs. were secured in Anderson during my three days' stay there. I held one out-door meeting there on Saturday night, and sold twenty-four pamphlets besides giving out a number of copies of the Weekly People. Just before leaving Anderson, Peter Roemer, a sympathizer, handed me his application for membership.

I am now in Indianapolis, and during my two weeks' stay I will do all I can, helped by the local members to boost the circulation of the Party Press.

Chas. Pierson
Indianapolis, Ind., August 2.

YONKERS S. L. P. SECTION RE-ORGANIZED.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Some time ago the Section of the Socialist Labor Party in Westchester county was suspended by the National Executive Committee. The Section had been kept in turmoil by a few Trautmanns, among whom Peter Jacobson was the loudest.

The Section was re-organized last week with some of the old members and some men new to the movement. The interesting part of the news is that the same Mr. Peter Jacobson, who shouted with the physical force element has since become a contractor and thrown his lot with the republican party. Recently, a republican politician of prominence held an excursion and clam bake feast for the "boys" in the G. O. P. On the picnic grounds a photograph of the boys was taken. Peter Jacobson appears thereon, and adorns quite the centre of the picture. Jacobson has evidently found the real "reflex."

On Friday evening, July 30, an open air meeting was held near Getty Square by the S. L. P. The S. P. had engaged or made application for a permit a few days ahead; this barred the S. L. P. from the square proper, which is the best place for open air meetings. The speaker who was booked for the S. P. did not, however, appear, and the S. P. held no meeting.

We of the S. L. P. wanted to take the square for our meeting place, but an S. P. man stepped upon the scene and declared that rather than to have the S. L. P. use the place for which his party had the permit for that evening, he would himself act as the speaker. After all, the S. L. P. held its meeting, but the S. P. held none.

There is a doctor in Yonkers, an S. P. man, who after the meeting complained how abusive The People was; that the "Letter Box" was full of mud-slinging. He was asked to be specific. He fumbled in his pockets for a while, and finally brought out a copy of the "Call." We helped him out and gave him copy of the Weekly People. He could not find the "Letter Box." We pointed it out to him and he could not find the mud.

A good meeting was held also at Mount Vernon, and the new Section had its membership in that town.

Westchester county has many friends of the S. L. P., who now have the opportunity to become members of the

county organization of the Socialist Labor Party. Those who want to join the new Section should communicate with Julius Newman, Organizer, 122 W. First street, Mount Vernon. The other officers of the new Section are: Alfred Hibbert, Secretary; M. Sprinchon, Fin. Secretary; A. Ruthstein, Literary Agent.

R. Katz.
New York, Aug. 2.

AFRAID OF GILLHAUS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Gillhaus has just returned to Seattle from Roslyn, where he had quite an experience with the bogus S. P.

About the middle of July arrangements were made to send Gillhaus to Roslyn for a few days' work, and one of our members there who is a coal miner made arrangements with the miners' union there to get their hall for July 25th. Posters and advertising matter were sent over on the 22nd, and Gillhaus followed the next day.

Lo and behold, when he got there, he found that the S. P. had secured the hall for the 25th, for a lecture by Mrs. Titus, wife of Dr. Titus, editor of the Seattle "Socialist." Consequently Gillhaus had to do his agitation on the street.

But, after all, he had a fine meeting and sold \$8 worth of literature. The S. L. P. sympathizers there are planning to have him come back again next month sometime.

It seems to be the mission now of this Titus element here, to learn when and where Gillhaus expects to go, then they break their necks to butt in and try to make his meetings a failure; but so far their movements have acted like boomerangs.

J. E. Riordan.
Seattle, Wash., July 31.

DEPRAVED "SUPERIORS" AT McKEE'S ROCKS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Since I struck the "Logical Centre," with its disturbances, I have been postponing writing. However, few, the members of the Socialist Labor Party here are determined to maintain the correct revolutionary course, and not to be sidetracked by any false issues.

The strike of the Pressed Steel Car works is, of course, the main cause of discussion just now, and one can hear some frightful stories, revealing the hypocrisy of the "home-loving" capitalists. I confess it was hard for me to read Sue's stories of the action of the ruling class and their supporters in centuries past, but when you mingle among the strikers you hear stories also of the brutality, corruption and depravity carried on in these mills by "superiors."

The poor slave gave \$10 to buy his job, and often had to allow the foreman (brute) to visit his wife for three nights. The priest was willing to go before the grand jury and state such was revealed to him and that the poor woman made the confession that justice might be done to others.

I have been up on "Indian Mound" a few times, and spoken words of encouragement to these striking brothers of ours, and it is wonderful to see the spirit displayed. Such patience and courage it has never been my lot to witness. One of the victims was present one day to report that his child had been drowned the day before. Immediately their spirit of brotherhood was displayed and the hat was passed around. It brought \$14 to the broken-hearted father, whose frame and face showed the terrible grind of the steel kings. With tears streaming down his cheeks he bowed his thanks to his fellow-strikers.

Needless to say, these sights are being used at our street meetings, and we are asking the question: "Why the silence of these clergymen for so many years?" According to their own words, they have known the facts for a long time. Silence is their only answer when we show the part played by these self-styled soul-savers. They let the body rot, or see it kicked to one side in the dust. From other shops letters now are finding their way into the papers, describing that conditions are almost as bad as at Schoenerville.

Then we have a "pure-food" crusade on, and the cry is that the merchants should be compelled to give up the poisoned goods on their shelves.

At present, the Italian laborers are in revolt, and the contractors are ordering the police to chase them to their "homes" and not allow them to discuss the trouble on the Boulevard. The Italians answered by organizing the Allegheny Laborers' Protective Union yesterday.

Then we have Mr. Lewis in this district, together with fifteen or twenty of his organizers to explain the "contract" to the slaves of the pick and lamp. The "misunderstanding" of the agreement was mainly in the fact that

a Board of Experts decided that better powder must be used to prevent loss of life in the mines. This new powder costs more money, which, of course, means either less dividends for the mine baron or less wages for the slave. Of course the mine baron doesn't propose to have his dividends cut, so the extra cost for powder is charged up to the miners, and to have the "misunderstanding" adjusted it requires the strenuous work of Lewis and his fifteen or twenty helpers to talk down district president Feehan, who is standing against the company.

Mr. Lewis says Feehan is trying to break up the union, but this is false. He also says that the public is deceived; that most of the miners' grievances are largely the imagination of a few men who do not understand the situation.

These are good object lessons which we are pointing out to the workers in trying to arouse them to the necessity of political and economic action as a class.

This is the second week here, and literature sales are beginning to pick up. One comrade got fifteen subs. where he worked last week. Then we are busy getting names on our nomination papers for the State ticket.

W. H. Carroll.
Pittsburg, Pa., August 2.

HERE'S FOR YOU, HARTFORD MEN!

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Following the recommendation of the State Executive Committee to the recent State convention, two members of Section Hartford, Frank Knotek and Anton Rossmeisl, availed themselves of the newly completed trolley line to Middletown and went there last Sunday to do some work for the Party.

It happened to be a very fine summer day, a good many people had left their homes to enjoy the day in the open. It happened that a lodge with a large membership held an outing there that day. Our emissaries endeavored to get among that crowd, but were made to understand that only the "initiated" and their special friends would be admitted to the "sacred" circle. If they should succeed in getting in there, the moment it would be discovered that they were Socialists they surely would be ejected. Therefore, not desiring to spoil anybody's fun, they abstained.

In spite of these unforeseen obstacles, some good Party work was performed. They sold a number of books and pamphlets, also got a number of subscribers to the Weekly People, mostly yearly ones at that, and last, but not least, got sufficient signatures of persons who intend to form a Section there. It was the general desire that the State Secretary should go there and install and complete the organization. This matter was left for him. As soon as a meeting for that purpose can be arranged, that business will be attended to.

But how about other Sections in the State in this respect? It is a fact too well known that the bulk of Section Hartford consists of "sports" and while there is any "sporting" to be had, these members cannot be had for anything else. Consequently a few are burdened with all the work there is to do. Yet, as records plainly show, these few are at it all the time.

As so far very little has been seen or heard about the activity of other Sections, it is devoutly to be hoped that they have not all turned "sports."

Sections Rockville and Hartford will have another joint affair on August 15, for the benefit of the State Executive Committee. National Secretary Paul Augustine has promised to be present one day to report that his child had been drowned the day before. Immediately their spirit of brotherhood was displayed and the hat was passed around.

It brought \$14 to the broken-hearted father, whose frame and face showed the terrible grind of the steel kings. With tears streaming down his cheeks he bowed his thanks to his fellow-strikers.

F. F.
Hartford, Conn., August 2.

THE SITUATION IN SWEDEN.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—In the telegrams published in the daily papers of last Tuesday, under such headings as, "Revolution in Sweden," "The authorities fear that the labor troubles will lead to a civil war," etc., it was generally maintained that the conflict recently originated within the textile industry.

According to items in Swedish exchanges published in last week's "Arbetaren," this is not the case. All along this summer the employers have been trying to cut wages, and in the early part of July they threatened to lock out 40,000 men by the 26th of that month, and another 30,000 by the 3rd of August—all in different industries—if an agreement acceptable to the Employers' Association, were not reached before July 26th.

When the lockout was proclaimed more than 13,000 men were already locked out, 8,200 of whom were employed in the raw paper manufacturing industry, 3,000 in the construction of roads and 2,000 in the tailoring industry.

Then we have Mr. Lewis in this district, together with fifteen or twenty of his organizers to explain the "contract" to the slaves of the pick and lamp. The "misunderstanding" of the agreement was mainly in the fact that

claimed, to which the workingmen answered by a general strike.

As can be seen from this, the trouble started with the attempt of the capitalist class to reduce the pay of the men and women employed by them.

The outcome is very doubtful. A regretful circumstance is that the railroad men, though organized, are not affiliated with the national federation of trades unions. (Landorganisationen.) It is to be hoped, however, that they will fall in line with the striking men, and that the present controversy will show to them and other "independent" unions the necessity of joining the national organization.

It is claimed that the so-called Young Socialist Party is striving to give the movement a revolutionary character. No doubt they are. The best definition the writer can give of the "young Socialists" is that they are a lot of well-meaning Anarchists, repudiating political action, advocating and practicing physical force.

The young and radical element within the Social Democratic wing will probably be heard from, and to some extent influence the outcome of this, the hitherto greatest event in the history of the Swedish labor movement. Surely, their anti-militarist propaganda will not count for naught.

Chas. H. Seeholm.
Yonkers, N. Y., August 6.

LOSING MORE DAYS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Just a word to tell you how things have been going in the railroad here the last two or three months, also the present month. In April the shops were closed—Southern Pacific R. R. Co.—for three days outside of the regular holidays; in May four days; in June, three more, and in July, when it is over, six and one-half days. This means that the total of the loss sustained by each machinist during these lay-offs amounts to a deduction of \$81 from already scanty wages. And all this in spite of the prevailing prosperity-bringing Republican administration.

G. J. Sherwood.
Sparks, Nev., July 27.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—That miscellaneous medley of moribund moralists, frenzied fanatics and dancing dervishes, which calls itself Socialist party, is at present engaged in pulling off some wonderful and well nigh miraculous stunts in San Francisco. Led by the famous Selig Schulberg (alias Kinky Korn Krikis, etc., etc.) they have supererogatory card playing in headquarters, and have banished the baneful checker games which formerly gladdened the heart of the two-bit terrorist. They have passed resolutions against anyone opposed to their party coming around their headquarters. (This of course includes S. L. P.)

Their city ticket is a thing to make the angels weep. Headed by Wm. McDevitt (a scoundrel-dealer by profession and an L. S. M. on the side) it includes gamblers, grafters, an ex-saloon man, panderers, race track touts, Japanese exclusionists, etc., etc., with here and there a workingman.

But the moving spirit is Schulberg, the man who was not in any way implicated in arson in Pittsburgh, Pa., nor embezzlement of union funds in Eureka, nor in the Pinkerton detective service in the East, and who, in short, has led a blameless life. There is an opinion prevalent here in San Francisco that Schulberg is in the pay of the Union Labor party which uses him as a chaser to disgust and drive out members of the S. L. P. This is because his brothers-in-law are prominent Union Labor politicians (friends of Abe Ruef) and are said to deliver a large part of the Jewish vote. If this be true, they could not have chosen a better tool. Of course, for Schulberg to endorse openly the U. L. P. would spell disaster in box-car letters ten feet high, but to have him pretend to antagonize it causes many S. P. men to register for McCarthy, the A. F. of L. labor-fakir, who heads their ticket.

The so-called Socialists are obviously unable to answer the articles appearing in "Organized Labor," the official organ of McCarthy, signed "a Union man who is a Socialist," and their not attempting to do so, coupled with their half-hearted attempts at propaganda, look as though Schulberg is really in the employ of McCarthy.

Personally, however, I do not think so. I cannot look at the graceful physique and high browed intellectual mug of "Com-rat" Selig and believe him capable of such duplicity. Besides the S. P. is a pure, holy, revolutionary party of the working class—junk dealers, insurance agents, millionaires, sociologists, millionaires mine promoters, chicken suppressors, theosophists, health food advocates, etc., etc., and they would not tolerate any crooked work—unless, of course, it was good vote-getting propaganda.

Eric Hansen.
79 Duboce street.

San Francisco, Cal., July 30.

AS TO LANGUAGE FEDERATIONS

Discussion on Amendment to the Party Constitution.

Chicago, Aug. 2.—The amendment to the S. L. P. constitution, proposed by Section Cook county, Ills., could not possibly be presented any better when it comes to taking in members by organizations instead of as individuals. It seems no injury could be done if the amendments were adopted.

But will it work that way when it is put into practical operation?

At the present time and for some time to come, the Socialist Labor Party will be composed of men who can claim foreign descent and are also familiar with the language of their respective countries. When a constitutional provision is made for a language division, would not those who are already members of a Section, and prospective members as well, join those language federations in preference to the political organization?

Everybody recognizes that propaganda ought to be carried on in all languages, but it seems that propaganda among those who understand the language already is of primary importance and here is enough for them.

If language agitation is required outside of any social feature, the Section of the S. L. P. should attend to that, outside of any amendment. A foreign-speaking organization at no time could possibly do the work of any political party in the United States.

In large cities a start will have to be made with a ward organization. One nationality lives in one ward, and another in a different ward, and in the majority of wards workingmen live who take no interest in their condition at all. The work would have to be done by committees and by comrades who are not familiar with the English language. Obstructions would be met that could not be overcome, and considerable work would be wasted. Besides, it seems that because a man pays dues to the S. L. P. it will not make him understand a principle.

How are we going to be sure that the language federations will remain the way we like them to be? The active comrades, who are doing the work now, may not have enough members around them to understand what is required to make a majority, as when electing delegates to the N. E. C. You may, in your language federation, have to deal with men of similar character of the Mahoneys, Shermans, and others too well known. But we have protected ourselves in Art 3, of the amendment. Their delegates are to have a voice but no vote, and all for three cents per member. But if we divide ourselves into language federations, as stated, there would be no N. E. C. of the S. L. P.

What use would it be to have members on the National Committee with voice but no vote? The language federations would pay the bills, whether Socialists or not. That would soon change Article 3, and the S. L. P., as a revolutionary organization, would soon go out of business.

A fine opening is made for the hiring of capitalism to come in and do some fancy work!

Language federations do not unite the Socialist Labor Party; they divide the organization. And by adopting the amendment that does not, as stated, give their members the same right as other members of the party. To ask the language federations to join the S. L. P. under those amendments shows they cannot be trusted, and you can not expect to have revolutionary constructive work done under rules that a capitalistic corporation can not hold a candle to.

OFFICIAL**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Paul Augustine, National Secretary,

28 City Hall Place, N. Y. City.

CANADIAN S. L. P., Philip Courtenay,

National Secretary, 144 Duchess avenue,

London, Ont.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO., the

Party's Literary Agency, 28 City Hall

Place, N. Y. City.

NOTICE—For technical reasons no

Party announcements can go in that

are not in this office by Tuesday,

10 p.m.

S. L. P. SECTIONS, TAKE NOTICE!

In accordance with Section 1 of Article XI. of the National Constitution, I hereby submit the following proposed amendments, which have received the required number of seconds:

Proposed by Section Cook County, Ill.

Language Federations.

Non-English speaking language federations nationally organized shall be defined as Language Sub-divisions of the Socialist Labor Party for propaganda purposes in the respective languages and shall be affiliated with the Socialist Labor Party in the following manner.

Correspondence.—From National Secretary, on standing of members throughout the State; from Essex County reporting county ticket nominated, Union County, and Passaic County, report steps taken to place ticket in the field. From Branch Plainfield half-yearly financial report.

Secretary reported that Katz had reorganized Section Hoboken as per instructions from S. E. C.

At a previous meeting the S. E. C. had been informed that the name Oscar L. Young, had appeared last year upon the S. L. P. and other ballots as candidate for the office of Justice of the Peace, in Kearney, Hudson County. Further information was to the effect that Oscar L. Young, who was said to be a Socialist party affiliation, had been elected, but had not qualified for office, and that he had no knowledge how his name came to be on the S. L. P. ticket. When the matter was first brought to the attention of the S. E. C. the Secretary was instructed to investigate and report. He reported as follows: The Party has no organization, nor any member in Kearney. Had written the Town Clerk there asking if the name of Oscar L. Young had appeared upon the Party's ticket, and if so, who was it certified and filed the nominating petition naming him as an S. L. P. candidate. The Town Clerk made answer under date June 17th as follows:

"I find in going over a statement sent to my predecessor, and signed by John Zellar, Chairman County Board of Canvassers, and attested by Edwin W. Gritten, Deputy County Clerk, that Oscar Young was on the Socialist Labor Party ticket for Justice of the Peace, but am unable to find the nominating petition with his name on."

"Yours very truly,
(Signed). William B. Ross,
"Town Clerk."

Subsequently the Secretary of the S. E. C. had received official ballots showing that the name Oscar L. Young had appeared as the nominee of the Socialist party; the Independence party (Hearst); the Prohibition party, and the Socialist Labor Party.

After discussing the matter Schenck moved, Gerold seconding, the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

The S. L. P. shall have full jurisdiction over all properties of the Federations, as with all other sub-divisions of the party, without responsibility for any indebtedness incurred by the Federations.

Section VI.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the national bodies of Language Federations shall be subject to approval by the N. E. C. of the party, and shall contain all the fundamental provisions of the party constitution.

Section New York's Amendments to Article XII of the Party Constitution.

Amended Portions, LARGE

TYPE.

Non-English speaking Language Federations, nationally organized, shall be CHARTERED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BE affiliated with the S. L. P. in the following manner:

Section 1. Strike out entire old Section and substitute following: LANGUAGE FEDERATIONS SHALL PAY TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE A PER CAPITA TAX OF FIVE CENTS PER MEMBER PER MONTH. BUT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION FIVE, IN REGARD TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SETTING ASIDE TWO CENTS OF THE MONIES RECEIVED FOR EVERY DUE STAMP SOLD, TO BE USED AS A MILEAGE FUND, SHALL NOT APPLY TO SUCH FEDERATIONS.

Section 2. Each Federation to be represented on the N. E. C. by one member.

Section 3. Each Federation shall be represented in the National Convention of the S. L. P. by one delegate for every fifty members or MAJOR fraction thereof.

Section 4. Sections or branches of Federations shall be represented on the General Committee of the S. L. P. Sections, provided they pay the regular per capita tax, or by fraternal delegates.

Section 5. Branches of Federations shall be represented in the State Convention, etc., etc., (STRIKE OUT).

Section 6. (TO BE NEW SECTION FIVE). The S. L. P. shall have full jurisdiction over all properties of the Federations, as with all other sub-divisions of the Party, without responsibility for any indebtedness incurred by the Federations.

Section 7. Delegates, whether fraternal or otherwise, must be able to express themselves intelligibly in the English language. (STRIKE OUT).

Section 8. The basis of representation shall exclude those members of a Federation who are members of a Party Section. (STRIKE OUT).

Section 9. Upon questions submitted to general vote of the Party, the members, who belong both directly to a Section of the Party and a branch of a

language Federation, shall vote at meetings of the Section only. (STRIKE OUT).

NEW SECTION SIX.

Section 6. MEMBERS BELONGING TO A BRANCH OR SECTION OF A FEDERATION, SHALL NOT, AT THE SAME TIME, BE MEMBERS OF ANY OTHER PARTY BRANCH OR SECTION.

Amendments to the above propositions are in order until August 7, 1909.

Paul Augustine,
Acting National Secretary.
New York, July 7, 1909.**NEW JERSEY S. E. C.**

Regular meeting of the State Executive Committee, S. L. P., was held at Gerold's, 131 Laidlaw avenue, Jersey City, Sunday, August 8th. Present: Schenck, McGarry, Gerold, Landgraf, and Hossack. Landgraf chairman.

Correspondence.—From National Secretary, on standing of members throughout the State; from Essex County reporting county ticket nominated, Union County, and Passaic County, report steps taken to place ticket in the field. From Branch Plainfield half-yearly financial report.

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language Federation, shall vote at meetings of the Section only. (STRIKE OUT).

A CALL TO DUTY, OHIOANS!

To the Members and Sympathizers of the S. L. P. of Ohio,

Comrades:—

You are undoubtedly aware of the sub-
getting contest for the Daily and Weekly
People between Ohio and Missouri,
which begins August 8, and runs to
August 21. Other States have already
participated in the contest and shown
fairly good results. Many readers have
been procured for our Party organs,
who were hitherto not acquainted with
our principles and movement.We must continue this work with re-
newed energy. As capitalism grows
ficer our efforts in spreading the light
among our fellow-workers must be of a
more determined nature.Remember that the press of this coun-
try is one of the greatest powers we have
to contend with. They are the moulders
of opinion. The sooner we can spread
our literature among our class the sooner
can we hope for success. Every mem-
ber and People reader has an urgent
duty to perform.One new People reader is equal to one
stump speech. If you are not a stump
speaker get one new People reader, and
you have accomplished as much as our
comrades who are gifted to make speeches
in public. But remember, our speakers
make one speech an evening; this means
twelve speeches in two weeks. If every
comrade who is not a public speaker
will secure one People reader a day dur-
ing the contest, Ohio will make a fine
showing in this race, and aid our Party
organ and strengthen the movement in
general.The time is ripe for the work. So
comrades of Ohio, get on the job. East-
ern States have thus far been beaten
in the contest; let Ohio show an example
for the States that are to follow us.And as to our Missouri comrades:
they'll have to "show us."

Ed. I. Polster, State Secretary.

OPERATING FUND.For the week ending August 7th we
received a total of \$33.00 to this fund,
items as follows:S. L. P. Auxiliary League, Los
Angeles, Cal. \$25.00
E. W. Collins, Spirit Lake, O. 3.00Marxian Club, Ogden, Utah.... 1.50
Louis Chun, Philadelphia, Pa. 1.00P. Vandoorne, Shawmut, Mass. 1.00
G. H. Campbell, Winona, Minn.50L. Brodsky, Brooklyn, N. Y.... .50
A. Clayman, Buffalo, N. Y.... .25

T. Grabuski, Lansing, Mich.... .25

Total 33.00
Previously acknowledged.... 4,926.44

Grand total \$4,959.44

REINSTEIN IN NEW YORK STATE.Workingmen's Circle Hall, in German.
Gloversville, N. Y.—August 10, Bleeker
street square, 8 p. m., in English.Utica, N. Y.—August 11, 12, 13, and
14.Syracuse, N. Y.—August 16, 17 and
18.

Auburn, N. Y.—August 19 and 20.

Rochester, N. Y.—August 21, 22, 23
and 24.**REIMER IN RHODE ISLAND.**Whereas, The name of one Oscar L.
Young, appeared upon the Socialist La-
bor Party ticket at the election of No-
vember 3, 1908, as candidate for the
office of Justice of the Peace in the
Fourth Ward, Town of Kearney, County
of Hudson; andWhereas, The Socialist Labor Party
has no organization nor any Party mem-
ber in the Town of Kearney; andWhereas, The said Oscar L. Young is
entirely unknown to us; andWhereas, Inquiries made of the Town
Clerk have resulted in discovering that
there are no Socialist Labor Party nom-
inating papers in the clerk's office or
anything to indicate that the Socialist
Labor Party made the nomination; andWhereas, We are further informed
that the said Oscar L. Young although
elected never qualified and that he claims
to have no knowledge of how his name
came to appear on the Socialist Labor
Party ballot; therefore be itResolved, That the appearance of the
name of the said Oscar L. Young on the
Socialist Labor Party ballot is either
the result of gross negligence on the part
of the town election officials, or of in-
tentional fraud upon the officials and
upon the Socialist Labor Party by some
person or persons unknown to us in
the town; and be it furtherResolved, That a copy of this resolu-
tion be forwarded to the Town Clerk of
Kearney and to the said Oscar L. Young.**THE LOCKOUT AND STRIKE IN SWEDEN.**For the purpose of giving moral and
financial aid to the locked-out Swedish
workingmen, a monster Mass Meeting
will be held on FRIDAY, August 13, in
Teutonia Assembly Rooms, Sixteenth
street and Third avenue, at 7.30 p. m.Prominent Scandinavian speakers will
address the meeting. All Scandinavian
workingmen should attend.**Woman and Her Emancipation**By JOHN H. HALLS,
London, England.**Prize Essay in the International****Competition Conducted by the**
Socialist Women of Greater
New York : : : : :

48 Pages, Price 5 Cents.

New York Labor News Co.,

28 City Hall Place, New York.

PENNSYLVANIAWins In Contest with Texas—Oppres-
sive Heat Hinders Texans.Pennsylvania is the winner in the
Penn.-Texas propaganda contest. From
Pennsylvania we received cash orders
Daily and Weekly People, \$30.55, and
Labor News \$18.61, total \$49.46. Of
this amount Philadelphia sent \$27.30.
From Texas we received \$10.05 for
Daily and Weekly People, and \$11.70
for Labor News, total \$21.75. The
Texas comrades write us that oppressive
heat there made propaganda work
practically impossible but that they
will make up for it later on.The general activity was pretty good
again. Those sending two or more subs
were:Aug. Clever, Braddock, Pa. 20
C. Pierson, Indianapolis, Ind. 18

F. Knotek, Hartford, Conn. 14

R. Strach, San Antonio, Tex. 7

Section Allentown, Pa. 9

H. Carstensen, St. Paul, Minn. 4

E. Anderson, St. Paul, Minn. 2

G. H. Campbell, Winona, Minn. 2